

# THE PLAN

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## OVERVIEW

The purpose of The Plan section is to portray the desired resource conditions of the park and desired visitor experience, and to provide goals and guidelines that will direct future management efforts toward achieving those desires. The Plan section, however, does not designate detailed facilities with specific size, design, and locations. During the expected life of this General Plan Amendment, it is recognized that new technologies, different recreational needs, and new opportunities may arise that cannot be foreseen as of the writing of this document. Therefore, different methods can be used in the future to achieve the desired conditions within the parameters provided by this General Plan Amendment. The Plan section includes the Declaration of Purpose and Unit Vision, which sets the purpose for park management and the image(s) of what it could ultimately be like in the future. This section includes a discussion of carrying capacity and allowable use intensities designated for specific areas of the park.

A further discussion of Management Zones is also provided, including their significant values and constraints, management approaches, and management objectives. Unitwide area goals and guidelines are prescribed, which state the management intentions and provide general guidance supportive of the park's natural, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources. Collectively, the contents of The Plan section will provide the direction for the future management, development, and use of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA or the park).

The following Plan is designed to direct future activities on lands owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) and the two County-owned parcels that connect the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site to La Cienega Boulevard. No portion of this Plan is intended to direct management of private or other public properties within the boundary of KHSRA or in close proximity to the park.

## UNIT PURPOSE AND VISION

The park continues to recover from its history of oil production and other land uses. Despite the impacts of earthquakes, landslides, and human activity, the park includes scenic vistas, open space, and remnant natural areas. Protection and preservation are necessary to sustain and enhance the park's natural state and its enjoyment by visitors. Most importantly, adoption and implementation of this plan will ensure that the park maintains its unique character.

In order for the Department to recognize increased visitation and future needs, management actions will be created for compatibility between visitor impacts and the protection of natural and

cultural resources. In achieving this balance, the park will be a setting that provides for a range of recreational activities. Achieving compatibility between park uses and protection is the result of public appreciation of the park's inherent resources. Interpretation of cultural and natural resources will guide the acts of preservation and protection. Appropriate public facilities will, whenever possible, be incorporated into the setting, remaining unobtrusive, low impact, and respectful of the scenic characteristics and resource values of the park and surrounding area.

Coordination and collaboration between the Department and other agencies, groups and individuals who support the park and regional planning efforts will enable the identification of resources within the park as well as beyond park boundaries. This working relationship will also create another avenue for public education and responsibility.

## DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

The Declaration of Purpose is the “mission statement” for each unit of the State park system. It is the general guiding statement that provides direction for the development of the General Plan. The existing Declaration of Purpose for KHSRA is stated below.

The primary purpose of KHSRA is to preserve the last open space resource in this area of Los Angeles County capable of meeting the present and future outdoor recreation needs of the public. To preserve this open space, major portions will need to be restored and revegetated. The purpose of this restoration is to repair the damage that has occurred to the vegetation and land forms resulting from the past and present uses of the area.

The prime resources of the park are:

- The large open space quality in direct contrast to the heavily developed character of the surrounding urban community;
- The many scenic vista points from which most of the Los Angeles Basin, Pacific Ocean and local mountains can be viewed; and,
- The potential for the unit to provide regional recreation opportunities for millions of people in the Los Angeles area.

In addition, there are natural and cultural values in the unit that can provide other recreational and interpretive opportunities.

## UNIT VISION

The park will retain its rugged character and spectacular natural and scenic beauty. The coastal scrub vegetation community will continue its recovery and the upper watersheds will preserve their sense of solitude and remoteness. Historic sites within the park will be protected and interpreted.

The entrance to the park will be well signed and landscaped to create an appropriate sense of entering a special place. Families arriving by vehicle will be directed to the visitor center. Here they will have an opportunity to orient themselves to the park and discover its distinctive natural and cultural resources. Those wishing to experience these resources may avail themselves of several passive use trails that immediately immerse them in the special qualities of the park. Opportunities for partnerships, joint interpretation, and research will be encouraged. Where feasible, trails and parking for disabled access will be developed. Access to vista points and other points of interest will be maintained. Interpretive nodes will be established at significant points of interest.

Sensitive plant and animal communities and habitats will be protected, as well as the sense of remoteness and solitude unique to the area. Watershed protection will remain a priority. Biological corridors will be maintained and enhanced, as will regional trail connections. Opportunity purchases of appropriate lands will enhance these regional connections, as well as reduce in-holdings.

## **GENERAL UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

### **UNIT CLASSIFICATION**

Classification establishes broad management guidelines and direction for public use. It provides certain resource protections under the California Public Resources Code (PRC 5019.50), California Parks and Recreation Commission policies, and resource management directives of the Department. The park was classified as a State Recreation Area (SRA) in February 1983 by the State Park and Recreation Commission on land purchased with federal, state and county funds, with the intention of creating a wilderness park in the heart of Los Angeles. The following definition of a State Recreation Area, as described in the Public Resources Code (PRC), division 5, Chapter 1, Article 1.7, Section 501956a, includes references pertinent to plan formulation for resource management and recreation development.

“State recreation areas consist of areas selected and developed to provide multiple recreational opportunities to meet other than purely local needs. Such areas shall be selected for their having terrain capable of withstanding extensive human impact and for their proximity to large population centers, major routes of travel, or proven recreation resources such as man-made or natural bodies of water. Areas containing ecological, geological, scenic, or cultural resources of significant values shall be preserved within state wilderness, state reserves, state parks, or natural or cultural preserves. Improvements may be undertaken to provide for recreational activities including, but not limited to, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, boating, water-skiing, diving, water sports, fishing and hunting. Improvements to provide for urban or indoor formalized recreational activities shall not be taken within state recreation areas.”

## MANAGEMENT ZONES

In this General Plan Amendment, areas known as Management Zones were established after evaluating the natural, cultural, and recreational features. These zones are not land-use designations but discrete areas of the park for which specific strategies steer the development of resource management objectives and guidelines have been developed.

This section defines the Management Zones for KHSRA, which are used to classify areas and prescribe future desired resource conditions, visitor activities, and facilities and provide guidance on how individual areas will be managed. Management Zones are applied to a geographical area for which management directions or prescriptions have been developed to determine what can and cannot occur in terms of resource management, visitor use, access, facilities or development, and operations. Each Management Zone has a unique combination of resource and social conditions, and a consistent management prescription. Different actions will be taken in different areas with regard to the type and levels of use and facilities. The Management Zones for KHSRA delineated after an analysis of the natural conditions, cultural features, and current and desired future human use patterns of the park are shown on Figure 22.

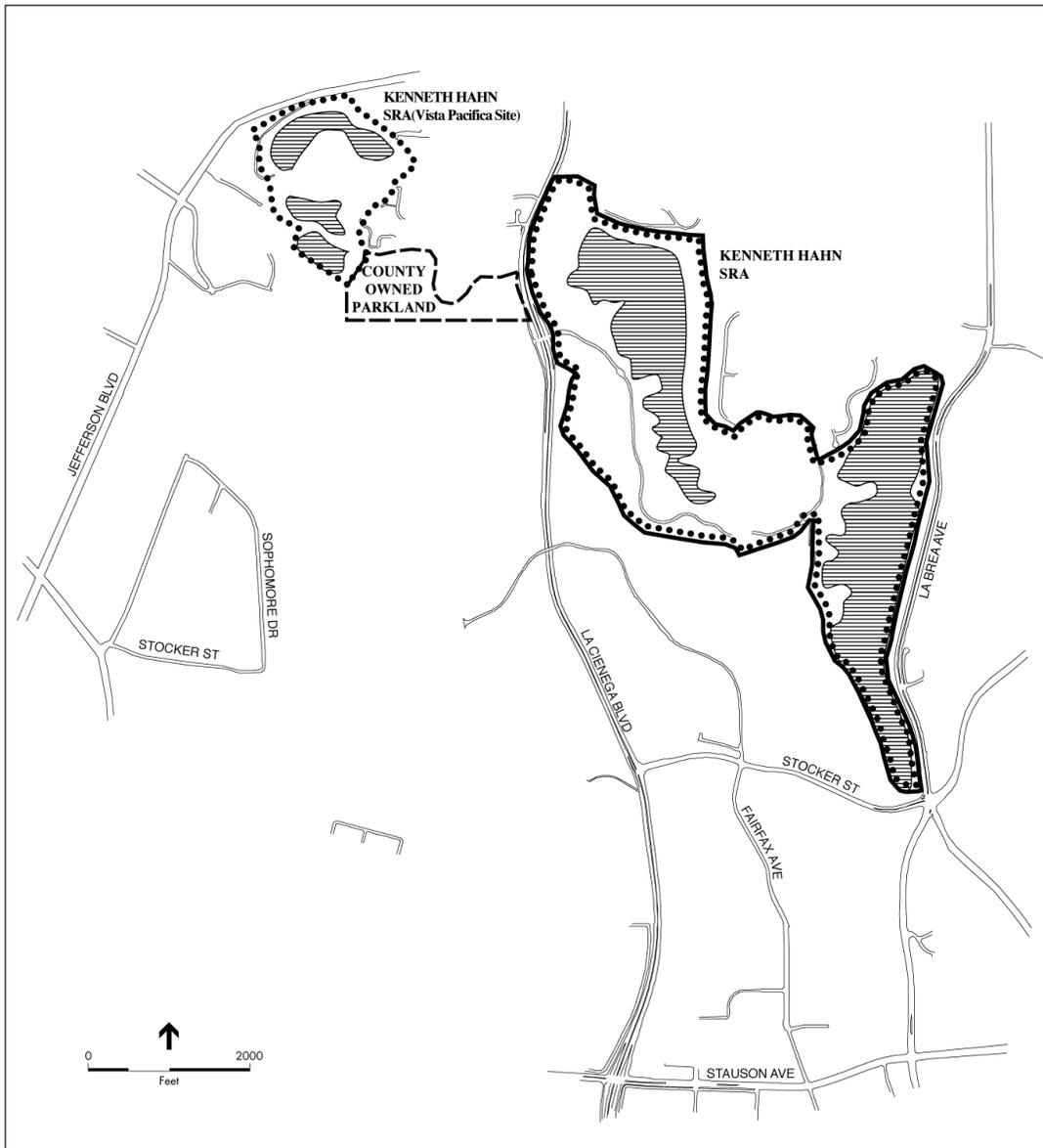
Management Zones are established to protect and enhance resources of the park. Management Zones prescribe certain uses and facilities that are not allowed in an area. In the absence of the Management Zones, additional development and higher-intensity uses could impact resources over the long term. Management Zones also provide opportunities for restoration of resources in areas where lower use and facility levels are prescribed. Management Zones protect the spectrum of recreational opportunities by allowing for visitor access and use of facilities in more resilient locations and different intensities of use within the park.

This section defines the Management Zones used for the Park.

### ***MANAGEMENT ZONE CATEGORIES***

The Management Zones for the park fall into two general categories: (1) Resource Protection Management Zone and (2) Beneficial Use Management Zone. The Resource Protection Management Zone generally prescribes the least amount and intensity of visitor use and facility development, leaving the landscape mostly natural and protecting the intrinsic values reflected. The Beneficial Use Management Zone allows for a low to high range of visitor use and low to moderate range of facility development. While emphasizing protection and enhancement of natural and cultural resources, they provide diverse recreational opportunities. The developed areas encourage concentration of higher-impact activities in areas better able to withstand heavy use and at locations that are already developed, enabling better protection of resources in more sensitive areas.

Management Zone prescriptions list typical activities, allowed facilities, and examples of facilities not allowed in each zone. These lists are not exhaustive. In general, the more intensive facilities allowed for in higher category zones would not be allowed in the lower category zones.



-  Resource Protection Management Zone
-  Existing Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary
-  Beneficial Use Management Zone
-  Proposed Kenneth Hahn SRA Boundary
-  County-Owned Parkland

SOURCE: Environmental Science Associates Kenneth Hahn SRA Recirculated General Plan Amendment and EIR / 202310 ■

**Figure 22**  
Proposed Management Zones

For example, a visitor center would be allowed under the Beneficial Use Management Emphasis, but not in the Resource Protection Management Zone. When determining whether a specific use or facility is appropriate to a management emphasis, park managers should consider the general character of development and desired resource and visitor experience conditions described for that area.

Management Zones generally allow for the repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of established facilities (such as structures, utilities, roads, and bridges) unless specifically noted. All zones also allow for scientific research and monitoring activities, particularly related to the analysis of management of the park.

### **Resource Protection Management Zone**

The overall management objectives for the Resource Protection Management Zone are as follows:

- Manage for protection of resources;
- Manage for ecosystem integrity;
- Preserve natural biodiversity;
- Allow natural processes to prevail;
- Mitigate, reduce, or eliminate human-caused impacts;
- Manage for a high-quality and rustic visitor experience; and,
- Protect all resource values (ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical in nature).

Areas designated as a Resource Protection Management Zone will be managed to preserve and protect sensitive plant and animal species and their supporting habitats, as well as to protect the movement of plants and animals within the park. Resource protection will be the foremost consideration for all land use and management decision. The Resource Protection Management Zone will be managed with low tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use, and management action could be taken to change visitor use patterns if such degradation occurred. Visitor experience will be primarily based on hiking, walking, or nature study characterized by light to moderate use focused on marked and maintained trails. There will be some management presence to accommodate resource protection and visitor use. These areas will provide substantial opportunities for scientific study of natural processes in undisturbed conditions.

*Activities* – The following activities are typical in this zone:

- Hiking and biking;
- Photography and nature study; and,
- Interpretive programs.

*Facilities* – The following facilities are allowed in this zone:

- Vehicular roads or trails (where they do not adversely affect resources);
- Historic features;
- Occasional directional and regulatory signs, and safety signs;

- Footbridges;
- Appropriate visitor amenities (e.g., drinking water, comfort stations, rest areas, etc.)
- Interpretive signs to protect natural or cultural resources or to promote understanding of natural processes;
- Boardwalks, fencing, and other features to direct travel appropriately to avoid sensitive resources; and,
- Utilities (wells, utility lines, pump stations, and other facilities where they are screened from view).

The following are examples of facilities that will **not** be allowed in areas designated as a Resource Protection Management Zone:

- Visitor center;
- Group picnic facilities;
- Operations facilities or storage;
- Day-visitor parking;
- Food services; and,
- Campgrounds and lodging.

### **Beneficial Use Management Zone**

The park serves as an important recreational resource, providing opportunities for nature study, hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, and other activities. The overall management objectives for the Beneficial Use Management Zone are:

- Manage for protection, enhancement, and restoration of sensitive resources, and natural processes;
- Provide opportunities for varied levels of recreational use;
- Provide quality interpretive and educational programs;
- Direct visitors to locations able to withstand heavy use;
- Manage major attraction areas to allow visitors to enjoy the resource with minimal environmental damage; and,
- Manage for the protection and maintenance of cultural resources, including historical and archeological sites.

Areas designated as a Beneficial Use Management Zone will be managed to allow for more intensive recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, and large group gatherings. Visitors can spend significant periods of time enjoying park resources in a relatively accessible setting. There will be moderate tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use.

The Beneficial Use Management Zone is intended to be applied to popular destinations, where visitors can spend significant periods of time enjoying the park's resources in a relatively accessible setting. The Beneficial Use Management Zone enhances opportunities for visitors to enjoy more intensive recreational activities and can support a range of active recreational opportunities such as picnicking, and bicycling, which would contribute to the diversity of experiences. Visitors may expect moderate to high numbers of encounters with other users and crowding on peak days. Large groups may use these areas.

Resource protection activities in this zone will be comparable to those described above. However, due to the larger volume of visitors, the Beneficial Use Management Zone will be managed with moderate tolerance for resource degradation from visitor use in specified areas. To protect and enhance cultural, biological, and hydrologic resources, more extensive resource protection measures may be needed to direct visitor use away from sensitive resources. Examples include boardwalks adjacent to sensitive habitats or fencing to prevent trampling and overuse. By encouraging higher visitor use in the Beneficial Use Management Zone, adjacent and more resource sensitive areas will experience the desired lower visitor use for these areas.

*Activities* – The following activities are typical in this zone:

- Hiking and walking;
- Photography and nature study;
- Picnicking and social gathering;
- Bicycling;
- Fishing<sup>1</sup>; and,
- Interpretive programs.

*Facilities* – The following facilities are allowed in this zone:

- Roads and improved trails, including bike paths and interpretive trails;
- Day-visitor parking;
- Picnic facilities;
- Playgrounds;
- Interpretive and visitor centers;
- Food services;
- Administrative facilities;
- Turnouts for parking or scenic lookouts;
- Fences, boardwalks, walls, signs, and other features to direct travel appropriately around sensitive resources;
- Interpretive, directional, and safety signs and exhibits;
- Utilities such as well sites, utility lines, pump stations and other facilities; and,
- Bridges necessary for access, improved circulation, safety, and/or resource protection.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

Presented below are general goals and guidelines that are unitwide in their application. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes – for example, maintain ecosystem health and productivity, or promote community stability. Guidelines describe the physical, natural, or social condition or degree of function a resource must meet in order to sustain certain principals or provide more specific direction for interpreting the goal – for example, land, health, or water quality standards. The goals and guidelines for the park are defined and expressed below:

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<sup>1</sup> Fishing is allowed subject to California Department of Fish and Game regulations in all Management Zones.

## ***NATURAL RESOURCES***

The following are unit-wide goals and management guidelines to perpetuate the park's important resource values. These goals state general resource management intentions and provide general guidance supportive of the park's natural resources.

### **Goal: Consider preparation of a Resource Management Plan for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**

#### *Guidelines:*

- The Department will consider preparation of a Resource Management Plan for KHSRA to specifically address management of Natural and Cultural Resources, including sensitive areas that may preclude or limit recreational uses.

### **Goal: Maintain and enhance the movement of native animals through the park and regional ecosystem**

#### *Guidelines:*

- Biocorridors will be recognized when there is enough information to indicate the importance or necessity of these connections to the exchange of plants and animals between the park and other wildland areas. The adequacy and effectiveness of these habitat linkages will be monitored by documentation of the presence, distribution, movement, and habitat associations of the representative species using them.
- Consider creation of a biocorridor connecting to the Ballona Creek and Ballona Wetlands.
- Preserve large areas of coastal scrub habitat still found in the park. Secondly, land in a degraded condition with some remaining native species that is strategically located adjacent to existing habitat should be restored to create larger areas of viable habitat that are more likely to be able to support populations of native animals. Those areas that serve to connect existing and potentially restored habitat areas are a very high priority for restoration, as these corridors will re-connect remnant habitats, creating what could become an extensive network of natural habitats within the park.
- There are a variety of management techniques that could be employed to restore and improve existing habitat. Efforts should be concentrated on:
  - re-establishment of habitat corridors;
  - removal of unnatural water sources;
  - introduction of a managed fire regime;
  - removal of non-native plant species;
  - control of superabundant or non-native predators (such as feral cats and dogs);
  - reintroduction of key species;

- creation of buffers between habitats and high-use areas, streets and other urban impacts; and,
  - educating the public about natural plant and animal communities.
- The Department, along with federal, state and local jurisdictions and councils, regulatory agencies, and private landowners, should coordinate efforts to preserve and manage interconnecting biocorridors at a regional level.

**Goal: Maintain, protect, and/or improve habitat for special status species**

*Guidelines:*

- All known or potential habitat for sensitive, rare, threatened or endangered species will be evaluated prior to implementing actions that may affect the species or their habitat. Consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), will be conducted in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Protection or enhancement of coastal scrub areas will be required in planning and development considerations.

**Goal: Manage the park to protect and restore natural watershed functions**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider restoration of watershed function and reduction of human-caused soil erosion and sedimentation.
- Standards for siting, constructing, upgrading, maintaining, and decommissioning roads and trails, will be based on best management practices from all available sources.

**Goal: Prevent outside disturbances from having adverse impacts on park resources to the extent practicable**

*Guidelines:*

- The Department will continue to work with local jurisdictions, appropriate organizations and adjacent property owners to ensure long-term protection of park resources and ecosystems. The Department will review and comment on all projects proposed on lands adjacent to the park to determine if they could have a detrimental effect on park lands.

**Goal: Restore, protect, and maintain native ecosystems and indigenous flora and fauna through active resource management programs**

*Guidelines:*

- Restoration of coastal scrub and riparian habitats require long-term planning, a comprehensive approach to soils, hydrology and plant palette, and sustained, careful maintenance over many years. Management of natural habitat and restored natural habitat areas shall be science-based to the maximum degree possible, and shall address ecosystem components. Rehabilitation of key insect, reptile, amphibian, bird and mammal species shall be considered where feasible. Implementation of the plan shall prioritize protection of existing natural habitat and restoration of lands that re-connect these existing areas.
- Management of KHSRA will recognize the long-term nature of native habitat restoration efforts, and will design management strategies to accommodate long-term restoration needs. These include: the on-going removal of invasive non-native plants and their replacement with native plants; adjusting irrigation patterns and systems as necessary to favor native species; on-going biological monitoring; and, locating and designing all footpaths, trails and other public access infrastructure with attention to their effects on native habitat restoration efforts.
- Management of KHSRA shall maximize the viability of existing natural habitat and habitat being restored to a natural condition, protect areas in the process of restoration, and prioritize protecting the connectivity between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas shall be of highest priority. Where necessary, controlled burns may be used on a limited basis to eradicate and control non-native plant species and to encourage native plant regeneration. Location of park facilities, buildings, trailheads, footpaths, service and shuttle roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed and sited to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas and to protect natural habitat. On-site management facilities could include nurseries for native plants to facilitate restoration efforts and the supply of plants suitable for the Baldwin Hills, and facilities for wildlife care, rescue and rehabilitation to be released back into the wild. Natural habitat areas shall be managed to allow ample use of these areas as a living laboratory in coordination with area schools and park visitor education and science programs.
- Vegetation management will be directed toward establishing the natural ecological processes that are essential for the development of native plant communities, expansion of these native communities, and the removal or reduction of exotic plant taxa. This restoration will occur with a minimum disruption to natural processes.
- Management action will minimize and, where possible, prohibit activities that further the spread of non-native plants.
- Consider development of a long-term program to control and/or eradicate exotic plants to prevent the establishment and spread of non-native species that could displace native species and disrupt natural communities. Priority for control efforts should be given to those species most invasive and conspicuous within the park.

- Non-native animal species will be discouraged through appropriate habitat management and when necessary by direct control measures.
- The Department will actively work to restore native plant communities and the natural processes that ensure their perpetuation.
- All seedlings and saplings used in habitat restoration projects will originate from seed collected from native plant taxa within park boundaries or from a nearby area.

**Goal: Protect special plants and special plant communities within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area to ensure their sustainability in accordance with state law (PRC, Division 2, Chapter 10, Section 1900)**

*Guideline:*

- Prior to any site-specific development, heavy use activities, or prescribed burns, affected areas shall be surveyed for the presence of state or federally listed plants or plant communities. Impacts that cannot be avoided shall be minimized or mitigated.

**Goal: Protect, perpetuate, and restore native wildlife populations and native aquatic species at KHRRA**

*Guidelines:*

- All sensitive wildlife species and their habitats will be protected. Include all taxa that are locally important (including endemic species), whether or not they appear on any endangerment list, as well as those protected by federal and/or state law. Management and protection of sensitive species is dependent upon adequate maps and other data regarding species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park.
- Specific management programs will be developed as necessary to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats using sound ecological principles and professionally accepted methods. If it is necessary to regulate animal populations, the methods used will be based on sound principles of ecosystem management, will be consistent with Department Resource Management Directives and will avoid disturbance to other natural values of the park.
- Prior to any site development, heavy use activity, or prescribed burn, surveys for sensitive wildlife will be conducted during the appropriate season for detection in areas that will be affected. Programs or projects to be undertaken will be designed and scheduled so that sensitive wildlife and their requisite habitat will not be adversely affected. Development is to be located and designed to protect and enhance enjoyment of the primary resources. The primary purpose for development is to place visitors in an optimal relationship with the resources, for recreational enjoyment and understanding of those resources.

- Maintain the natural faunal habitat of the park wherever possible. The natural faunal habitat is defined as the wildlife species and habitat extant in each area prior to Euro-American modification.
- The Department shall balance recreation and access with protection of resources, favoring low-impact activities in areas with high wildlife use.
- Domestic dogs accompanying visitors to the park will be controlled in accordance with the terms of CCR Title 14, Division 3 §4312 (Control of Animals) or as otherwise permitted by the Department.

### **Goal: Provide appropriate open space buffers**

#### *Guidelines:*

- Open space buffers will be included to protect natural habitat from active recreational or cultural facilities and to provide an overall planted park atmosphere. Irrigation will be managed to protect natural habitat areas and the native wildlife populations they support. Landscaping will be primarily with plants native to Southern California.

## ***CULTURAL RESOURCES***

### **Goal: Identify and protect all significant cultural sites and features within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area**

#### *Guideline:*

- Measures will be taken to identify, protect, or mitigate impacts to cultural historic sites and features. Historic resources will be preserved and protected through implementation of Department and professional standards.
- The park will be managed for the protection of cultural resources. More specifically, cultural resources shall be protected against damaging or degrading influences, including deterioration or adverse modification of their environments. Before implementation of surface-disturbing projects, the proposed project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) will be inventoried and evaluated for cultural resources by qualified personnel prior to undertaking any restoration, reconstruction or development activity. Consultation will be conducted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), as necessary.

## ***AESTHETIC RESOURCES***

### **Goal: Protect scenic features from man-made intrusions and preserve the visitor's experience of the natural landscape by minimizing adverse impacts to aesthetic resources**

*Guideline:*

- Park facilities will visually integrate into the environment through the use of appropriate siting techniques, building forms, scale, materials, and colors. The Department should work with adjoining jurisdictions regarding land use and development within the KHSRA viewshed that may affect the park and its scenic resources.
- Park management shall place a strong emphasis on consistency with the overall park vision and design elements and shall implement consistent design principles in all aspects of park management and development. Aesthetic considerations shall be integral to the design and siting of park components, buildings and facilities. The design of bridges, fencing, lighting, roads, signage and other park infrastructure shall also be consistent with the overall park aesthetic image and with the park vision and recreational, educational, and environmental objectives.

***RECREATIONAL USES***

**Goal: Provide for appropriate, sustainable visitor uses of the park and at the same time protect resources**

*Guideline:*

- Recreational uses will satisfy both user needs and resource protection requirements and for the most part be compatible with other visitor experiences. Recreational uses will generally occur where manageable with existing park staff or volunteers and where there is adequate, safe access to the recreation activity areas.
- Recreational facilities shall be operated to enable the public to see, enjoy, and understand the primary resources of the park. The primary resources may not be significantly impaired to create or enhance recreational opportunities.
- Unauthorized uses of the park shall be discouraged. Increased coordination will be made with local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies.
- It is a primary responsibility of The Plan to evaluate the ability of park environments to withstand the impact of visitor use. Developments in any unit of the park shall not be of such capacity, nor of such intensity, that significant ecological damage or deterioration of any environmental factor can reasonably be expected to occur.

**Goal: Provide appropriate access and opportunities for the visiting public to enjoy the park, while not degrading the natural/cultural features and ecological processes**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider preparation of a Unit Trails Plan that would create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the unique and diverse topography, geology, biotic communities, and scenic views of KHSRA. The actual location, distance, and use of future trails would be governed by this plan.
- Trailhead connections and signing for interpretive information and visitor safety will be improved throughout the park and at main points of entry.
- Trails will provide for public access within the park and to adjacent regional trail systems, with priority for achieving unitwide resource management goals and objectives. The Department will support regional trail objectives, coordinate with other land management agencies in the vicinity to evaluate and monitor resource conditions and share information to develop open space management programs and multiple use trail plans on a regional scale.
- Future trails planning and construction will include the Department's specifications and policies concerning trail construction and maintenance and be coordinated with soil erosion and sediment studies.
- Development of public access shall be consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All possible opportunities for ADA trails will be examined and given a high priority.
- Public access shall be a primary consideration for all park design and shall take into consideration coordination with public transit, on-site and off-site parking, connections to local parks, greenways, trails and trailheads. Pedestrian and bicycle access at key public access points will be a top priority, and all trails, trailheads, greenways, park entrances, park facilities and parking will incorporate pedestrian and bicycle needs. All park sites should be managed to maximize non-vehicular access, and safe and accessible connections to trails shall be emphasized.
- Public transportation will be accommodated at all entrances and trailheads to the park. A park shuttle system coordinated with public transportation systems in the area will be considered. Transit stops at park entrances and within the park will be located in conjunction with heavy use areas. Bus and shuttle stops can be located within the park boundaries to provide safe passenger transfer.

**Goal: Provide appropriate trails***Guidelines:*

- Footpaths and bicycle trail networks will be designed and possibly separated to avoid use conflicts. Trail crossings will be well signed. Handicapped accessible trails will be built where feasible.

- Footpaths will provide limited access to the natural areas of the park. They are intended to be a minimum width and will utilize low impact construction materials and methods to protect habitat areas. Routes will be designed to give walkers options of short loops or longer hikes through the entire park. Trailheads serving this system will be located at the eastern visitor center and the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site.
- Bicycle trails connecting to the Ballona Creek Bike Trail via a pedestrian bridge over Jefferson Boulevard from the vicinity of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, and via the Ballona Creek Trail to the 25-mile Beach Bike Path, will be considered.

**Goal: Provide appropriate education and interpretation**

*Guidelines:*

- Protecting and restoring natural habitat will be coordinated with education programs whenever possible, in conjunction with park-provided visitor interpretive programs, area schools, after-school and other youth programs and West Los Angeles College. Where feasible, management will include technological links between the park and park facilities to other science facilities and educational institutions, such as the California Science Center and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and non-profit organizations providing environmental or science education. Management of educational, laboratory and auditorium facilities will place the highest priority on education programming.
- Coordinated park signage and park information shall be a priority for all park entrances, parking areas, park shuttle systems, public transit connections, trail connections and for all park facilities.

**SOCIAL RESOURCES**

**Goal: Provide for appropriate public safety and law enforcement**

*Guidelines:*

- Consider installation of call boxes for contacting public safety officials in key locations throughout the park.
- Consider a full-time park ranger force trained in both law enforcement and park interpretation. Public safety services shall be coordinated to provide cooperation between state park rangers and all jurisdictions serving the park. An on-site substation and call box system will be evaluated to provide a location for such coordination. All agencies with jurisdiction in the area will need to cooperate to provide the highest quality service to park users.
- Consider installation of signage and lighting to facilitate night patrols of high-use areas. Park service roads and associated gating and signage shall be managed to allow easy and rapid

access to the park by public safety personnel. Fencing of the park perimeter and use of vegetation designed to prevent public access both at the perimeter and in other key areas may be used where necessary. Fire roads and hydrants will be installed where necessary to facilitate fire protection. Park hours will be limited to daytime only, except for scheduled events in controlled areas.

**Goal: Provide appropriate park administration and maintenance facilities**

*Guidelines:*

- Existing facilities will be retained until such time as new facilities become necessary and/or desirable. Existing facilities will be expanded or relocated within appropriate areas as needed and in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.

**Goal: Provide appropriate neighborhood buffers**

*Guidelines:*

- Existing measures have been taken in KHSRA, including fencing and other barriers, to restrict park visitors from areas adjacent to neighborhoods. The Plan proposes a variety of methods to prevent physical and visual access to and reduce noise, light, and fire hazard from park areas near adjacent homes. Buffers of natural habitat or landscaped areas could be located adjacent to neighborhoods on the north and west edges of the park. Taller plantings may be used to screen views of adjacent houses. If necessary, fences or other barriers could be utilized to restrict access.

**Goal: Provide appropriate economic opportunities**

*Guidelines:*

- Potential economic opportunities within the park shall be designed and operated to fit within the park, shall be coordinated and consistent with park uses, and shall not intrude upon or detract from enjoyment of park resources. Ensuring that appropriate park and recreation-related economic opportunities within the park are balanced with overall park and natural lands needs is an important management goal of this Plan.

**Goal: Provide appropriate park maintenance**

*Guidelines:*

- Park management shall place an emphasis on quality maintenance, on location of support facilities needed for park maintenance and operation, and on screening maintenance yards and facilities from view. Maintenance shall be managed as an integral part of the park, with the goal of not intruding into park uses. Park service roads shall be designed so that maintenance vehicles and equipment can easily access all visitor-serving uses, recreation and

active use fields, the golf course, and all park buildings and restrooms. Management of all park facilities shall include appropriate accommodations for service vehicle parking, tree trimming and landscaping maintenance, and other related infrastructure maintenance.

- All park facilities, gardens, landscaped areas, picnic areas, parking lots, buildings and other visitor-serving uses will be equipped with recycling and trash bins. Service yards and garages for heavy equipment will be of adequate size and appropriately located to maximize convenience to high demand areas; these areas will be screened from park view and sited to be unavailable to park visitors. Green waste disposal shall be state-of-the-art and should be screened from park view.

**Goal: Use principles of sustainability in the design and implementation of all park facilities**

*Guidelines:*

- To the greatest degree possible, structures shall be designed and built, and all lands shall be managed to maximize, the long-term sustainability of all park resources. Implementation measures may include use of reclaimed water or stormwater captured on-site for all irrigation and other uses as possible, use of drought-resistant vegetation, design of all park facilities using materials that meet high energy efficiency and environmental standards, appropriate siting of facilities to maximize efficient use of park land and resources, recycling of green waste and recycling of other recyclable products and use of solar and other non-fuel dependent energy sources. Sustainability includes emphasizing non-vehicular public access to the park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. Sustainability also includes directing revenue from park-related economic uses specifically to park improvements and maintenance.

## UNITWIDE VISITOR USE & OPPORTUNITIES

### ***UNITWIDE INTERPRETATION***

Interpretation and education are based on the premise that knowledge deepens the park experience and provides lasting benefits, not only to individuals but also to society in general. Interpretive themes define the point of view given to the presentation of the park's natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources. Interpretation and education assist in the preservation of these valuable resources by educating visitors to the impacts that they have on the resources and reducing crime.

The park contains some of the most significant natural, cultural features within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County. This plan calls for sustaining native wildlife and plant habitat, thereby preserving the natural character of the area, which provides important environmental educational opportunities. The park will provide an opportunity to work closely with all levels of education providers to enhance curricula in science and history-social science frameworks as well as other frameworks. The park is in close proximity to over 55 schools that

have a total enrollment of over 30,000 students. It will be imperative to have continuing communication with the education providers to ensure that interpretive and educational programming directly reflects the curriculums of local school children and the needs of other park visitors.

The park may be the first or at least the most important natural history related park experience for many visitors. This exposure could serve as a catalyst to educate these new park users to the importance of restoring and preserving natural landscapes and sensitive features of the area. Through this educational effort, increased support for the preservation of the remaining natural environments of the state may be realized.

Specific areas of the park will have distinct and unique learning opportunities. This Interpretive Element will provide an overview of the park by identifying primary themes with appropriate supporting themes and secondary themes. These will be used as a starting point to identify the rich interpretive values contained in the park.

The following describes the interpretive goals for the park and its natural and cultural resources, establishes the historical periods relevant to interpreting the park's cultural resources, and presents the major interpretive themes created to help communicate resource information to the public. If this approach is successful, individuals will have an enriched park experience and, in turn, may be encouraged to help preserve and protect the varied resources found at KHSRA.

**Goal: Provide the opportunities to increase the visitors' knowledge and appreciation of the significant natural and cultural resources of KHSRA.**

## *INTERPRETIVE THEMES*

### **Interpretive Period**

Development of the park shall include interpretation of not only the past history of the area but also the present use of the region for oil production. Interpretation shall include recognition of:

- Inhabitation by the Tongva Indians;
- European Colonization period (A.D. 1540-1771);
- Mission period (A.D. 1771 to 1843);
- Mexican Period (A.D. 1822 to 1846);
- Baldwin Hills Reservoir;
- Past, present and future oil production activity; and,
- Settlement of the Los Angeles Basin.

### **Interpretive Themes**

Interpretation relies on themes to describe the significant natural and cultural resources of the park in personally meaningful ways. Themes help connect the various pieces of the park so that relationships between plants, animals, topography, climate, geology and other elements and forces can be better understood. Most importantly, thematic interpretation helps the park visitor

understand the role humans have played and continue to play in interacting with and modifying these resources. The unifying theme and the primary themes are given below. Secondary themes that deal with specific natural and cultural features of the park, as well as specific locations, will be presented in the Interpretive Prospectus.

***Park Unifying Theme: An ever changing, ever healing landscape where natural and human forces converge.***

**Primary Theme: A natural refuge within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County, Baldwin Hills reveals California’s rich natural history and our responsibility to respect it.**

**Supporting Theme:** Native plants and animals find refuge in the fragile natural environment of KHSRA.

This theme will introduce the beauty and diversity of California native flora and fauna with emphasis on their adaptations. It will contrast native vegetation and native wildlife with introduced species and the associated outcome of reduced viability of native species.

**Supporting Theme:** Showing respect for the environment and other visitors while recreating at KHSRA will ensure safety for the park and people.

KHSRA's location and easy access from the major urbanized area of Los Angeles results in extreme pressure on the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities offered in the park. This theme will educate visitors on how to recreate while preserving nature, respecting the solitude of other visitors and maintaining the park’s resources for future generations.

**Supporting Theme:** This park is an island of natural resources requiring community appreciation and participation to protect it.

What we do in our communities impacts the health of this island of habitat and other natural resources. Our personal practices can effect the health of this island refuge. Its viability in providing a home for flora and fauna is dependent upon our decisions. Each individual decision we make contributes to (or detracts from) the health of a watershed and of the places we value. This theme looks at issues of habitat connectivity, watershed management and community environmental standards/stewardship. This supporting theme will look at the interconnections between KHSRA, the community and other natural areas (i.e. Ballona Creek and wetlands) surrounding the proposed park.

**Primary Theme: As a home to humankind, the park site and the larger Baldwin Hills area of which is it a part have created a haven for many cultures.**

**Supporting Theme:** The park site and Baldwin Hills have been a home to many cultures.

Beginning with the Native Americans and continuing to the ethnically diverse population of Los Angeles today, Baldwin Hills has been a center for cultural history. This theme will interpret the

history of the many cultures that have called Baldwin Hills home. Specific periods include: The Native American period, European Colonization period (1540 – 1771), Mission Period (1771 – 1843), Mexican Period (1822 – 1846), and Anglo Period (1848 – present). All of these periods need to be represented in the interpretive plans for KHSRA.

This supporting theme will look at the reasons so many people call Los Angeles home, what brought them here and why they choose to stay. The climate, jobs, and other factors have created the interconnection of many cultures within the Baldwin Hills area.

**Supporting Theme:** The park and the Baldwin Hills area of which it is a part were a temporary home for hundreds of international athletes.

Baldwin Hills was the site of the Xth Olympiad Olympic Village (1932). The idea of the Olympic Village was conceived from a deep sentiment that athletes of all nations could live peacefully, side by side, regardless of color, race, or creed. The concept of an Olympic Forest was incorporated in the previous General Plan to allow the planting of at least one representative tree species from each nation that participated in the 1932 Olympic Games. These trees should be identified and accompanied by interpretation of the cultures they represent.

**Primary Theme: Geologic history has shaped the Baldwin Hills area and our lives.**

**Supporting Theme:** From the hills and mountains to the flatlands of Southern California, geologic formations impact our daily lives.

This supporting theme will interpret the changing geology of southern California. From plate tectonics processes that continue over millennia to earthquakes that last seconds, geology strongly influences our day-to-day decisions as individuals and as a society.

**Supporting Theme:** Petroleum production is both a natural and a man-made process.

The Baldwin Hills contain a variety of geologic features that created the oil reserves. This theme will investigate the formation, extraction and refining of oil and the manufacture of petroleum products. The finite quantity of the resource and the need to conserve energy should be primary elements of this theme.

**Supporting Theme:** The geography has shaped human habitation of this region.

This theme will interpret the enormous variety of environmental factors and patterns as they affect the human community. The quality of our life styles is closely related to the quality of the environment in which we live.

**Primary Theme: Great parks are a part of healthy communities.**

**Supporting Theme:** Parks provide for healthy vibrant communities.

Parks such as this offer a refuge from the intensity of our city pressures. They provide places for renewal and refuge. They offer opportunities for personal fitness and social gathering. By interpreting the value of such a park we reinforce the need to fulfill the vision and associate the effort with the great community building efforts of the past and can share the vision that this park can continue to provide a refuge for the people of the Los Angeles area.

**Supporting Theme:** This theme will discuss what it takes to make a park, concept through completion. A focus on KHSRA is essential in making this theme relevant to the visitors. Process, funding, partnering and politics all play a role in the development of a park and should be included in the story covering this theme. All of the partners should be prominently acknowledged.

## INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The interpretive facilities, programs, and media that will convey this information are described in the following guidelines. These guidelines are presented for application of the unitwide goals and interpretive themes presented in the previous section.

### Goals

- To acquaint the public with the park's rich cultural history and the natural resources found in KHSRA;
- To inspire the public to protect and preserve the park resources;
- To acquire additional open space lands in proximity to the park; and,
- To create additional outdoor exhibit panels within the park.

### *INTERPRETIVE PANELS*

Interpretive panels are needed at various locations throughout the park to describe the site's rich cultural and natural heritage.

### *PROGRAMS*

School programs and guided walks are currently offered at KHSRA. These programs are coordinated by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. These programs should be expanded to encourage use of the park by a diverse audience. Introducing a variety of guided walk topics and interpretive opportunities can serve to attract groups with diverse interests. Possible future programs could include docents serving as roving interpreters, docents hosting an interpretive station, and docents offering a weekend booth with hands-on activities and information. Special events focusing on living history, geology, or other topics could attract visitors to interpretive activities. Park staff should encourage minority and urban communities to participate in school programs and public programs. A variety of programs could be offered to

park visitors including nature walks, history programs and bike rides. School group programs would be offered on the rich natural and cultural history of the park.

### ***VISITOR, INTERPRETIVE AND EDUCATION CENTERS***

Two visitor, interpretive and education centers will provide visitor services in the eastern and western portions of the park, respectively. One center is housed in an existing facility, while the second would require construction of a new structure on the Vista Pacific Scenic Site.

State-of-the-art visitor-serving facilities are planned for the northwest side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This visitor and educational center will be designed to take advantage of the spectacular views from this location of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding mountains. The facility is envisioned as a multi-level structure(s) built into the hillside, with a dramatic overlook terrace. Exhibit space, multi-purpose rooms, an auditorium, restrooms, restaurant and administration offices are proposed for these facilities, which will serve as a destination and departure point for hikers and bicyclists using the park's trail system. Access to these facilities at Vista Pacifica from outside the park could be provided from Jefferson Boulevard via Hetzler Road. In the future, access to this area by tram or funicular from a parking facility located at street level along Jefferson Boulevard could occur if suitable land acquisition by the state is possible. Parking on the hill should be limited due to the steepness of the site and to preserve habitat restoration areas and view corridors.

On the east side of the park, the existing visitor and education center along the entry drive to KHSRA at the north end of the fishing lake is proposed to be retained, expanded, or relocated within an appropriate area. The center is located adjacent to a restored natural habitat area and includes interpretive information on the natural history of the site.

### ***SCULPTURE GARDENS***

A portion of the former reservoir site on the eastern ridge of the park could be used for a future sculpture garden. The garden is envisioned as a passive recreation area providing a unique setting for large-scale land art or other media. A trail located along the rim of the existing space could be retained with additional buffer planting of native species located between the sculpture garden and the adjacent neighborhood.

### **UNITWIDE COLLECTIONS**

The Department acquires and maintains collections for several reasons. First, to preserve elements of the natural and cultural environment original to the park; second, to document the people, events, and cultural or natural features that are central to the park's purpose; and third, to support the interpretation of themes that are important to the park. The collection of both natural and cultural artifacts of the park will be considered only as they fulfill these criteria.

The Department has a legal and ethical mandate to obtain only collections for which it can provide professional curatorial management. Therefore, collections obtained or housed at the park will be obtained and maintained as directed by Departmental Collections Management Standards outlined in the Department Operations Manual (DOM).

- Natural history specimens will be preserved when necessary to document the natural history of the park.
- Architectural elements and other materials original to the park or used in its historic structures will be preserved when necessary to document the history of the park and its historic structures.
- Herbaria specimens will be preserved to document the natural history of the park.
- The Department will establish safe and secure spaces for storage and display of park collections.

### **Scope of Collections Statement**

Museum collections will play a minor role at the park. At present some copies of historic photos of the area are kept at the existing Visitor Center. This collection will be maintained, and additional collections may be acquired, to:

- Retain elements of the real property such as archeological and paleontological materials removed from the site;
- Retrieve objects that were used historically at the site such as lumbering tools, railroad artifacts, or other historic items; and,
- Document the park's natural history.

#### *Guidelines:*

- The Scope of Collections Statement will be updated as necessary. Museum collections will be managed in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Department Operation Manual (DOM) Chapter 2000 Museum Collections Management.

## **UNITWIDE VISITOR USE AND OPPORTUNITIES**

It is recognized that any recreational use produces at least some impact, and that the Department needs to manage impacts related to visitor use. Also recognized is the importance of providing and maintaining diversity in resource features and conditions of the park. To ensure that implementation of the General Plan Amendment protects resources and visitor experience, a consistent set of mitigation measures would be applied to actions that result from or are guided by The Plan. The Department would prepare appropriate environmental review (i.e., CEQA, the

National Historic Preservation Act, and other relevant legislation) for these future actions. As part of the environmental review, the Department would avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts when practicable.

## RECREATION CARRYING CAPACITY

Public Resources Code Sections 5001.96 and 5019.5 state that the land carrying capacity shall be determined before any park development plan is adopted, and that attendance at State Park System units shall be held within the limits established by this capacity. A definition of carrying capacity by the code, however, is not provided. The carrying capacity of land is developed by evaluating the interaction between land uses and natural systems and determining how these interactions will affect, over time, the integrity and sustainability of the land. Maximum capacity is the point where land regeneration is exceeded by demands made on natural systems and there is resulting degradation or destruction of the systems. Carrying capacity not only relates to the environmental resources of an area but also the quality of the visitor experience. In terms of park and recreation planning, carrying capacity may be extended in meaning to suggest that no cumulative net losses will be permitted to occur in any of the resource values of a unit (natural, cultural, aesthetic, or recreational) due to human use (activities or facility development). However seemingly insignificant, effects have a permanent impact on resource values. Therefore the intent of the Public Resource Code is to avoid degradation of resource-based park systems. The great variety of factors involved in damage to natural resources and the complexity of the interactions among the factors creates difficulties in establishing a carrying capacity number. Attendance, individual or group usage, time, and types and patterns of recreational use all contribute to the impact on resource systems. To aid in impact minimization, management can regulate capacity limits, regulate land use, enact mitigation measures, educate and interpret for the public, and ensure proper design. Determination of resource location and significance allows management to create future guidelines for public use of a park and access to it.

Adaptive management is a tool to address user capacities and is included in this plan. Adaptive management is an ongoing, iterative process of determining desired conditions, selecting and monitoring indicators and standards that reflect these desired conditions, and taking management action when the desired conditions are not being realized. The four key elements of adaptive management include: (1) determination of desired conditions; (2) selection of indicators and standards that reflect the desired conditions; (3) monitoring of the indicators and standards; and (4) implementation of management action when the desired conditions are violated or when conditions are deteriorating and preventive measures are available. Together, these elements help park managers make decisions about visitor use and resource protection.

Adaptive management is a decision-making framework but does not diminish management's role in decision-making; in fact, management must make crucial decisions in determining desired conditions, choosing appropriate management actions, and assessing occasional overlap between protecting park resources and providing for desired visitor experiences. The following outlines the Adaptive Management Program for the park.

**Goal: The Department should develop a park-specific adaptive management program to evaluate the recreational carrying capacity of the park.**

### ***DESIRED CONDITIONS***

Adaptive management relies on the concept of desired conditions, which are contained in the Management Zone descriptions and identify how different areas within the park will be managed. Each Management Zone prescribes a set of desired resource conditions, desired visitor experiences, and types and levels of uses.

### ***INDICATORS AND STANDARDS***

A major premise of adaptive management is that desired conditions, which are qualitative in nature, can be represented using quantitative indicators and standards. Indicators and standards reflect desired conditions and enable park management to determine whether or not the desired conditions are being realized. “Indicators,” which are variables, are determined first; “standards” are the acceptable measurements (i.e., values) for the indicators. Specific indicators and standards are developed for the desired conditions for each combination of management emphasis and ecological type. Resource indicators measure impacts to the cultural, biological, and/or physical resources from visitor use. Social indicators measure impacts to the visitor experience caused by interactions with other visitors. Indicators should be specific, objective, quantifiable, reliable, related, responsive, nondestructive, and sensitive to visitor use. Standards should be quantitative, measurable, and feasible.

### ***MONITORING***

Detailed monitoring protocols will be developed for each standard to ensure accurate, valid data. Monitoring will begin as soon as a standard is selected and a monitoring protocol is developed.

### ***MANAGEMENT ACTIONS***

If monitoring revealed that a standard associated with an indicator were being violated, then desired conditions would not have been realized and management action would be initiated. Management action could determine that the violation of the standard was caused by natural variation and that the standard needed to be adjusted, or a new indicator and standard selected, to better reflect desired conditions. Actions to manage or limit visitor use would be implemented when the standard was violated due to impacts associated with visitor use. Management actions could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Site management (e.g., facility design, barriers, site hardening, area/facility closure, redirection of visitors to suitable sites);
- Regulation (e.g., the number of people, the location or time of visits, permitted activities, or allowable equipment);

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- Enforcement of regulations (e.g., patrols, notification, citations);
  - Education (e.g., information signs and exhibits, interpretive programs, visitor center exhibits, brochures and fliers, public meetings, meetings with user groups); and,
  - Altering access (e.g., parking in proximity to sensitive resources, bike access, etc.).

Management action would comply with the requirements of CEQA and other applicable legislation.

### ***EXISTING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS***

There are a number of policies and ongoing management actions that address user capacities and protect the resources of the park. These policies and management actions will continue and may be modified while the adaptive management program is being implemented.

### ***WHAT THE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS NOT***

It is worth noting what the adaptive management program will not do.

- The adaptive management program does not specify the total number of visitors that the park, as a whole, can accommodate at one time. Such an aggregate figure would mask problems at “hot spots” and would not provide managers with useful guidance for addressing use-related problems.
- As a framework for addressing carrying capacity, the adaptive management program is not driven by the capacity of existing infrastructure. Expanding or constructing facilities does not necessarily mitigate visitor use impacts to visitor experience or resources.
- The adaptive management program does not address impacts that do not result directly from visitor use. Impacts from park operations and management activities (e.g., exotic pest management), natural variability (e.g., flooding), development (e.g., construction, demolition), and other causes not directly associated with visitor activities are managed through other methods.
- The adaptive management program is not static. Visitor use patterns, desired visitor experiences, and resource conditions change with time. The adaptive management program is an iterative process of monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment.

### **ALLOWABLE USE INTENSITY**

Allowable use intensity correlates the significance, sensitivities, and constraints of the unit’s resources with an allowable degree of human use. These uses may be defined by human activities and/or development of facilities. Allowable use intensity designations consider past, present, and future uses, and are used as planning tools in assessing the appropriateness of future proposals.

Management Zones, described above, include allowable use intensities for specific areas of the park, including future desired resource conditions, visitor activities, and facilities. Allowable use intensities contained in the Management Zones provide guidance on how individual areas will be managed.

## **AREA GOALS AND GUIDELINES**

Management areas for KHSRA are designed to address the wide array of distinct park, recreational and open space uses proposed for the park and the specific needs of different land use types. All Specific Management Areas will adhere to the appropriate goals and guidelines outlined above and with the Department of State Parks and Recreation's guidelines for management of natural and cultural resources. Presented below are guidelines developed for specific areas and/or Management Zones designated for the park.

### ***LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD PARK ENTRANCE, VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTER, NORTH CENTRAL VALLEY MANAGEMENT AREA***

The park entrance off of La Cienega Boulevard will remain one of the primary entry points into the park and will introduce park visitors to the wealth of natural resources of the Baldwin Hills, provide trail maps and information on the range of cultural and recreational activities available, current events and education programs. This park entrance should immediately impart a sense of the natural oasis and native habitat that make the Baldwin Hills such a unique and special place. The Visitor Center will provide interpretive exhibits, and presentations to present up-to-date information and orientation to KHSRA to park visitors. This entrance should be part of the public transit linkage. Public parking should be provided, and the feasibility of a park shuttle/train system to provide access within the park should be evaluated.

The north central valley area will be managed to provide a high-quality, easily accessible park experience to visitors, including convenient parking for the fishing lake, picnic sites, Lotus Pond, playground and small-scale community center that can be used for small group meetings. As the main landscaped area that most park visitors, who come to the Visitor/Education Center, Botanic Gardens/Olympic Forest, or Sculpture Gardens will see, this area shall be sensitively designed to set an overall theme for the planted, non-habitat areas of the park.

### ***VISTA PACIFICA SCENIC SITE, VISITOR CENTER AND BALLONA CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION MANAGEMENT AREA***

As the most spectacular view site in urban Los Angeles as well as in KHSRA, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site provides visitors with a unique high-quality experience that emphasizes the views and restored natural habitat of this hilltop. This includes observation areas to showcase sweeping vistas from the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, walking and sitting areas and appropriately designed visitor-serving facilities, including a visitor center and restaurant that are sensitive to this special site. All site design will first protect views and accommodate habitat restoration and long-term habitat management needs and will be built to the

highest standard of environmentally sound design, energy efficiency and site compatibility. Public parking should be located near the base of the hill and will be located and screened to protect the viewshed. The possibility of a tram or funicular from a lower parking lot will be examined. Appropriate accommodations would be made for persons with disabilities and emergency access.

Footpath and bicycle trail connections to the Ballona Creek Trail will be provided. A land bridge from the lower area of the site over Jefferson Boulevard will be investigated. Footpaths and paved trails could ultimately connect the Vista Pacifica Site to the eastern ridgeline and the rest of the park.

### ***OLD RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT AREA***

The Old Reservoir area will continue to be managed in a passive recreational mode. The area could be used to create a quality outdoor sculpture and park experience, with carefully designed and coordinated landscaping, walking paths and signage. In selecting sculpture, coordination with local art museums and community art centers will be encouraged. Native vegetation should be planted in the northern portion to screen the houses from visitor use, reduce fire hazard, and better connect native habitat areas. Park maintenance facilities, service and storage yards, and nursery will remain in this management area.

### ***FIVE POINTS AND TRAILS CONNECTION MANAGEMENT AREA***

This area provides access to trails in the Ridgeline Management Area and potential connections to bicycle trails, footpaths, pedestrian walkways and other local parks. These include the Stocker Street Trail, pedestrian walkways along La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive, Norman O. Houston Park and Jim Gilliam Park.

### ***EASTERN RIDGELINE MANAGEMENT AREA***

This area consists of all of the eastern ridgeline and canyons on both sides of the ridgeline, and is bordered by La Brea Avenue, the neighborhoods of Baldwin Hills and Baldwin Vista, and Five Points. This area will be managed to protect natural habitat, scenic views and appropriate public access and to provide necessary buffers between visitor-serving uses and surrounding neighborhoods. Management will maximize the viability of existing natural habitat, as well as habitat being restored to a natural condition, and protect the connections between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas will be of highest priority. Location of trailheads, footpaths, service roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas, to maximize views from the ridgeline and to provide trail loop alternatives.

Landscaping in the natural habitat areas will be with plants native to Southern California. Irrigation will be designed to protect native habitat and will be used only where necessary for restoration efforts for picnic areas, and where runoff does not impact natural habitat areas. Other

designated open space in this area will be transitional landscape and will be landscaped primarily, although not exclusively, with native vegetation. These open space areas serve as a transition between native habitat areas and active recreation or more intensively developed park areas. Established picnic sites and playground areas are on the edges of the habitat areas and on grassy areas in this open space area.

### ***ACQUISITIONS***

If the opportunity arises to purchase adjacent properties, acquisition of the properties will be considered. Park expansion will create buffer zones between the park and surrounding environments, additional parking options, and provide connections to adjacent properties allowing for trail and habitat corridor systems.

**Goal: Acquire properties adjacent to boundaries that are beneficial for increased parking, day use activities, trail connections, and habitat corridors**

### **ISSUE RESOLUTION**

There are a number of issues and planning efforts that require attention beyond the scope of this General Plan Amendment. Many goals and guidelines of the Plan Section provide direction for each issue. Some of these goals and guidelines recommend future planning efforts, including management plans and studies.

The General Plan identifies the following issues to be resolved in future planning and compliance documents:

- Park Access Points – Resolve park road and boundary access problems through detailed site planning, coordination with local agencies, and facility implementation. Solutions to access problems may require additional property acquisitions.
- Appropriate Recreational Uses – Provide quality recreational activities and public-use facilities without compromising resource integrity.
- Accessible Parking – Provide adequate parking at each designated access point, which conforms to various accessibility levels. Solutions to parking problems may require parking plans and studies, as well as additional property acquisitions.

The General Plan recommends that the following planning efforts and studies be undertaken.

- Congestion Management Plan;
- Collection of information and monitoring of the health and function of core areas and biocorridors;

- Management plans, studies, and updates to the park's Unit Data File as necessary to meet vegetation management guidelines, including a Resource Management Plan;
- Collection of information regarding sensitive species presence within, movement through, and uses of the park;
- Management programs to monitor and control non-native pests;
- Management programs to protect and restore sensitive animal populations and their habitats;
- Trail management plan; and,
- Adaptive management program to evaluate visitor-related carrying capacity.